

NEWS NOTES

At the annual meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club in January it was decided to establish a new type of membership—Field Membership—for those who might wish to go on the field trips of the club. Last year nearly one hundred regular trips were scheduled. The cost of the new membership will be two dollars.

New leaders desired for field trips. Both old and new members of the club are invited to offer suggestions regarding one day or week-end trips to places within easy reach of the city. It is especially desired to have leaders to places of interest that have not been visited by the club. Those who are willing to lead or who will offer suggestions regarding trips are asked to communicate with the chairman of the field committee, Raymond H. Torrey, 99-28 193rd Street, Hollis, L.I., N.Y. before March 1st.

On the recommendation of Director Merrill, the Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden at its annual meeting on January 14th, designated the general herbarium of the institution as the "Britton Herbarium, New York Botanical Garden," in honor of Dr. N. L. Britton, late director of the institution. The building up of the reference collections was peculiarly close to Dr. Britton's heart. During his lifetime he saw the great reference collections of botanical material built up from the nucleus of the Torrey Herbarium of Columbia University, perhaps 400,000 specimens, deposited at the Garden in 1899, to a total of 1,774,687 specimens, a collection particularly rich in types and in historical material. The herbarium is now the second largest in America and one of the great herbariums of the world. Precedents for the action are found in the designation of the fern herbarium of the Garden in 1907 as the "Underwood Fern Herbarium" in honor of Professor L. M. Underwood, and of the moss herbarium as the "E. G. Britton Moss Herbarium" in 1934. During 1934 a total of 70,170 specimens were poisoned, mounted and distributed into the herbarium.

The first number of a new botanical monthly appeared in January—The Botanical Review, edited by H. A. Gleason and E. H. Fulling of the New York Botanical Garden. The first number contains an article by Dr. L. O. Kunkel on Possibilities

in Plant Virus Classification, and one by Dr. William Seifritz on the Structure of Protoplasm. Articles are to be contributed only on the recommendation or suggestion of the editors or advisory editors. The fields of botany represented by the advisory editors indicate that most fields of botanical research will be covered. The advisory editors are: paleontology, Dr. R. W. Chaney; ecology, Dr. W. S. Cooper; anatomy, Dr. A. J. Eames; mycology, Dr. R. A. Harper; taxonomy, Dr. F. W. Pennell; cytology, Dr. L. W. Sharp; genetics, Dr. E. W. Sinnott; phycology, Dr. Gilbert Smith; pathology, Dr. N. C. Stevens; morphology, Dr. R. B. Thomson; physiology, Dr. S. F. Trelease.

The Federal Government has purchased the nut arboretum of William C. Bixby, at Baldwin, L.I. The trees include black and Japanese walnuts, butternuts, hickories of several species, filberts of various sorts and hybrids of many varieties and species. The trees will be distributed to the National Arboretum in Washington, the Forest Service Nursery at Troy, N.C., and the Division of Forest Pathology. To the latter will go some 1,000 disease resistant chestnuts for reforestation in the areas where the chestnut blight has killed all the native chestnuts.

The Botanical Society of America at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh during Christmas week, elected the following officers: President, Dr. Aven Nelson, University of Wyoming; Vice-president, Dr. K. M. Wiegand, Cornell University; Secretary, Dr. Loren C. Petry, Cornell University; Treasurer, Dr. H. A. Gleason, New York Botanical Garden.

Professor R. A. Emerson, of Cornell University, is spending part of his sabbatic leave in Yucatan with J. H. Kempton, of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, in a study of wild relatives of Indian corn, *Zea Mays*. It is hoped to find material of interest in a study of the genetics of maize. After the trip to Yucatan, Professor Emerson will visit laboratories of genetics in California and other western states.

THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB

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